

Montague Mass in Motion 2nd Committee Meeting
Gill Montague Senior Center 62 5th Street Turners Falls, MA
Monday, April 24, 2023 1-3pm

Meeting Notes are italicized.

AGENDA

This meeting will be held in-person at the location provided above. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Topics may start earlier than specified.

All members present: Colleen Doherty (CD Facilitator), Roberta Potter (RP), Maureen Pollock (MP), Caitlin Kelly (CK), Eileen Dowd (ED), Eileen Mariani (EM), Roy Rosenblatt (RR), Gina McNeely (GM). Guest: Rachel Stoler (RS) from FRCOG.

- 1. 1:00pm** Review and Approval of minutes from 3/24/23 meeting; welcome committee member Gina McNeely.
Committee approved minutes from 3/24/23 meeting.
Reminder from facilitator of Open Meeting laws and refraining from discussion via email.

- 2. 1:10pm** Relevant articles: Aging and Health; The Brain of an Elderly Person; Age-Friendly Communities: Implementation and Success in Rural Areas
Brief discussion on articles. Committee member/ Library Director Caitlin K. will compile list of aging/senior related articles to be housed on library web site.
Racial Justice Reframing Considerations
Document from Health Equity training emphasizing the importance of inclusion as we move forwards in our age-friendly priority issues and recommendations.

- 3. 1:20pm** Re-focusing of committee goals discussion: Phase One of MMIM ends June 30th; scale back to 4 or 5 domains?; consider total of 4 meetings?; focus on priority issues, root causes, and strategies?.
Committee agreed to all re-focusing statements above.

- 4. 1:30pm** Montague specific data discussion with guest Rachel Stoler from FRCOG.
*Handout sent and posted earlier. Discussion Points: possible need for village by village data; overall low response rate in survey; concerns of the following issues/needs: *housing including transitional housing, *telehealth assistance, * transportation, *importance of communication at all levels and means *town nurse, social worker, advocate, case manager, outreach workers (various titles discussed.) The absence of a town nurse with assistance for seniors is a visible void.*
- 5. 2:00pm** Group discussion on two Domains of Livability with worksheet focus:
Refer to worksheets below.
Maureen Pollock provided the following documents: What is Affordable Housing from CHAPA and Subsidized Housing Inventory for Montague

Social Participation: (Eileen M., Eileen D., and Caitlin K. lead)
 25 minutes

Housing: (Roy R. and Maureen P. lead)
 25 minutes

PRIORITY ISSUES (concern/problem)	ROOT CAUSES (reasons/why)	STRATEGIES (solutions)
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- 6. 2:50** Next 2 meeting dates in May and June.

Thursday May 25, 2023 at 3:30

Monday June 26, 2023 at 12:30

Location for both meetings: Gill Montague Senior Center

Domains of Focus for May 25th:

HEALTH (Gina and Roy lead) and COMMUNICATION (Roberta lead)

Montague Mass in Motion Domain: *Social Participation/Respect and Social Inclusion*

Priority Issue (concern/problem)	Root Causes (reasons/why)	Strategies (solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*Social Isolation</i> <i>*Importance of establishing and keeping connections</i> <i>*Degradation of communication and connections during Covid</i> <i>*Lack of programming for seniors or is it lack of communication??</i> <i>*Lack of usage of Gill Montague Senior Center from Lake Pleasant, Montague City, Millers Falls</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*Limited public transit</i> <i>*Drivers do not assist with packages</i> <i>*People in rural areas not accustomed to using public transportation</i> <i>*Difficult for caregivers to go out</i> <i>*Hearing difficulty may impede participation</i> <i>*Sound systems in some buildings such as TFHS and town hall impedes hearing</i> <i>*Lack of wheelchair accessibility at TF library for story hour and....</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>*Need to prepare for not being able to drive</i> <i>*Fixed route buses are free</i> <i>*Utilize On-Demand Service!!!</i> <i>*FRTA presentation</i> <i>*Grant opportunities for listening devices</i> <i>*Improve sound systems</i> <i>*Utilize MCTV for town meetings. Closed captioning??</i> <i>*Intergenerational programming at Senior Center</i> <i>Story hour at Farmers Market</i>

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Montague Mass in Motion Domain: *Housing*

Priority Issue (concern/problem)	Root Causes (reasons/why)	Strategies (solutions)
<p><i>*Need more affordable housing for both low and moderate income seniors</i></p> <p><i>*Need additional rental opportunities</i></p> <p><i>*Need support for homeowners to remain in homes</i></p> <p><i>*Reluctance to question existing conditions in residences</i></p>	<p><i>*Lack of knowledge of multiple agencies involved in housing</i></p> <p><i>*High taxes</i></p> <p><i>*Lack of knowledge of resources to rehab properties</i></p> <p><i>*Lack of information on ADU's</i></p> <p><i>*Reluctance to question conditions for fear of losing voucher or getting evicted</i></p>	<p><i>*Affordable housing coalition info sessions on housing, ADU's, CPA (community preservation act)</i></p> <p><i>*Understand two types of vouchers: traveling and stationery</i></p> <p><i>*Opportunities for towns to clean up/fix up existing buildings</i></p> <p><i>*Promote CDBG 0% interest loans where applicable</i></p> <p><i>*AG receivership program for abandon buildings</i></p> <p><i>*Utilize ADU's in rural arts of towns where space is more available</i></p> <p><i>*Revamp older homes to allow for age-friendly housing</i></p>

		<p><i>*Utilize HRA loan programs for 0% interest loans for home modifications that increase accessibility</i></p>
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Additional housing related information:

-Montague is at 9.6% affordable housing

-CHAPA = citizen housing and planning association

-SHI = subsidized housing inventory

-AMI = area median income

-CDBG = Community development block grant

-ADU considerations: parking, septic, size, owner occupied